(a) whether it is a fact that Konkan Railway suffered a loss of Rs. 879 crore during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what concrete/corrective steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government for development of Konkan Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Corporation is able to meet its working expenses from the revenues generated. The loss suffered is due to the financing cost incurred in market borrowing and depreciation. All efforts are being made to improve the viability of Konkan Railway. Besides ensuring adequate financial assistance, introduction of a new service called Ro-Ro (Roll on-Roll off) for moving road traffic on rail and the offering of station to station rates, wherever possible, in order to attract traffic, are steps taken in this direction. Aggressive marketing efforts have been launched to contact local industries, on the Konkan Railway route, in order to attract more traffic to the system. In addition, the Konkan Railway has also been permitted to utilise their construction expertise for taking up infrastructure projects within the country to mop up further resources.

Haridaspur-Paradip and Roopsa-Baripada Rail Lines

3928. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated cost of the new Haridaspur-Paradip rail line;

(b) the total estimated cost of the Roopsa-Baripada rail line;

(c) the progress of the work in these above cases; and

(d) by when they are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) Rs. 301.64 crore.

(b) Rupsa—Baripada (51 kms.) is a part of Rupsa—Bangriposi

Gauge Conversion project (89 kms.). The cost of this project is estimated at Rs. 80 crore.

(c) (i) *Haridaspur-Paradip New Line.*

Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition plans and papers have been submitted to the State Government. An amount of Rs. 5 crore has been remitted with the State Government for land acquisition. Land has been acquired for 10 km. of alignment in patches. Preliminary works have been taken up and work on this line is being regulated as per the availability of resources.

(ii) *Rupsa-Bangriposi Gauge Conversion.*

Widening of formation and construction of pre-cast concrete boxes for all the minor bridges between Rupsa and Baripada (51 km.) have been completed. Further work is being progressed according to availability of resources.

(d) No target dates of completion for these two projects have been fixed up as yet.

Action on Rakesh Mohan Committee Report

3929. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rakesh Mohan Committee Report has suggested that there should be regulatory body for Railways that would work out the tariff policy and would also look into the issues of corporatisation and privatisation;

(b) whether there is any opposition to this Report in the Ministry; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the status of this Report and whether Government have taken any decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The report of the Expert Group headed by Dr. Rakesh Mohan is yet to be received. However, an Interim Executive Summary has been received on 17.2.2001. One of the recommendations in the Interim Executive